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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [GR](#)

SUBJECT: BIRD-CARRYING BANK ROBBER LINKED TO THE LEFT

11. (SBU) On October 3, Greek media devoted surprising attention to a minor bank robbery. The inept thief apparently stopped by a local open-air market on the way to his crime. Having purchased some groceries and a caged bird, he placed them on his bicycle and proceeded -- with unidentified accomplices -- to rob a nearby bank. He and his accomplices reportedly carried hand grenades and weapons during the robbery. Exiting the bank with his loot, the bird-toting robber then made his two-wheeled escape. A passing civilian pursued him on foot, notifying police by mobile phone. The police easily identified him, arresting him at a nearby intersection.

12. (SBU) The real news was his identity: George Voutsis, the son of Nikos Voutsis, a prominent member of the small parliamentary party Leftist Alliance. George Voutsis reportedly has a history of involvement in anarchist activities. Leftist Alliance -- which traditionally does not condemn anarchist activity -- is keeping a low profile. To date, it has issued no statements on the arrest.  
COUNTRYMAN